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No. 158

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 12, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM PRICE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord our God, You have blessed this part of the world. You have revealed Yourself as Lord in the glory of the nations and in the most honorable of Your people.

As Latino Americans celebrate their fiesta during this holiday season, they invite the peoples of the Americas to join with them in the joys of life and in praising You, Lord, as our Protector and Guide.

In this western hemisphere, You, Lord, have created something new. Our history and our struggles urge us to join together in greater solidarity as brothers and sisters of promise and freedom.

May Your justice truly live in our hearts and in all the institutions of government and service we build so that peace and prosperity may grow among Your people both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. PELOSI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from John Hodges, Manager, Office Supply Service, U.S. House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, December 7, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal subpoena, issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, for testimony.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

JOHN HODGES,
Manager, Office Supply Service
U.S. House of Representatives.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as we enter what may be the last week of

this session of Congress, I rise to once again state the need for this Congress not to adjourn until we have addressed some of the pressing needs of the American people. Three of them loom large.

One is as we go into this holiday season, America's families across the country are receiving high bills for their home heating oil. I believe that this Congress should not adjourn until we reverse some of the huge subsidies that this Congress gave to oil companies at a time when they are receiving record and historic profits. These bills will hit home at a time when families can least afford it. Congress should act before we leave.

Secondly, as seniors are bewildered and befuddled by the prescription drug bill that has been foisted upon them by this Congress, I urge Congress not to leave until we extend the time needed for seniors to fully address that bill, also to address in it the prospect of giving the U.S. Government negotiating power for lower prices, and address the reimportation issue as well to lower the cost of prescription drugs for America's seniors. It is clear that this legislation has done nothing to lower the cost of prescription drugs for America's middle-income seniors.

Third, all of America mourned the loss of life in the gulf States. We have seen destruction in that area of biblical magnitude. And here we are over 100 days since Katrina and there are so many emergency needs unmet, housing needs unmet, education needs unmet, I do not believe that it is fair for this Congress to adjourn until we address some of the immediate needs of the victims of Katrina, most particularly the housing needs of the survivors of Katrina.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge the Speaker of the House to keep us here in session until we address the issue of home heating oil for America's families, until we address the needs of

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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